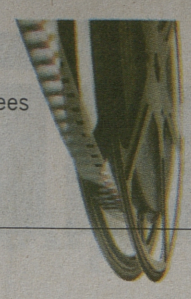
'Blithe Spirit'
Tyler Civic Theater presents 'Blithe Spirit' on March 13 through March 23.
[Story on page 8]

Ghost Tracker
Local movie theater rumored to be haunted. Employees say paranormal activity happens all the time.
[Story on page 12]



Michael Phelps
Olympic gold medalist escapes trouble with the law.
[Story on page 5]

The Apache Pow Wow

SINCE 1927 | VOL. 74 NO. 3 | FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2009 | WWW.TJCNEWSPAPER.COM

WEB extras



MCT Photo

IRAQ STRATEGY
President Obama announced that he'll withdraw U.S. combat troops from Iraq by Aug. 31, 2010, but plans to leave as many as 50,000 troops there through 2011. For the rest of the story, go to tjcnewspaper.com.



MCT Photo

LONGBOARDING
Three boys armed with a baseball bat, a tire iron and boundless potential gave Ben Warner his revelation to longboard 2,400 miles across the country. To read why, visit tjcnewspaper.com.



File Photo

DR. E. FOWLER
TJC remembers the passing of an important figure in the school's history, former Vice President Dr. E. Fowler.

WEB extras TJCnewspaper.com

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Crossword

Suspicious drug activity reported on campus

By Shela Burgess
Copy Editor

Campus Safety has already received more than 10 calls to investigate suspicious drug activity in the dorms since the spring semester began a little less than two months ago.

Campus Safety has been called to Ornelas Residential Complex, Potter Hall, West Hall and the Ornelas Health and Physical Education Center, but no arrests have been made.

"There's reports but as far as finding anything tangible, we haven't found anything this semester," Chief Randy Melton, director of Campus Safety, said.

Still, the numerous reports of suspicious activity to Campus Safety do raise concern about students and student welfare.

"Sometimes we get reports of marijuana and [students] come to the dorms smelling of marijuana," Melton said.

While smoking marijuana off campus is not something students can be turned into Student Affairs for, it still raises concerns when students smell smoke throughout the dorms.

"Typically, if we get a call, it's just on suspicion," Melton said.

"It could be a combination of people who go off campus or are just around it."

Field tests for marijuana-like substances have been inconclusive, and tangible evidence, in most cases, is

— see DORMS page 11 —

The Target: To Transfer



Photo Illustration

Students guided to university of choice

By Taylor Valentine
Advertising Director

TJC is working to make transferring to a four-year school more convenient and as painless as possible with a new transfer center.

The old University Studies advising office, located in Jenkins Hall on the first floor, is now undergoing renovations to become the first transfer center at TJC.

The transfer center is an easy way students can apply to another institution without using a computer from home or having to travel miles away in order to apply to their school of choice. Advisors from various schools will instead come to the TJC campus.

"Advisors can help you apply and possibly start some advising with students upon enrollment," Janna Chancey, executive director of Enrollment, said.

The advisors will be set on a block schedule to allow different schools to meet with students at certain times. A schedule will be posted to let students know which school is coming on which days. Some of the schools closer to the area may visit more often than others.

Advisors from different schools will be able to pick days they want to come and meet with TJC students. Advisers will set up stations in order to provide academic advising and application guidance.

PARTICIPANTS

Several colleges will be working with the TJC transfer center.

Stephen F. Austin
UT-Tyler
University of Louisiana
Dallas Baptist University

"We will have laptops available if they wish to apply, and also there will be academic advisors to answer questions regarding core curriculum classes and degree advisement as well," Sarah Bowdin, director of Admissions at UT-Tyler, said.

There will also be a lounge with a couch and a coffee table so that students have the opportunity to sit down and browse through catalogs from the different institutions and look at different DVDs on an LCD TV that will be placed in the center.

Books with tips regarding transferring to another school and a computer kiosk will also be provided for students who want to browse the universities' Web sites.

There will be a student assistant, who is available to make appointments and answer questions.

The student assistant will also guide students to the right academic advisor for the school of interest.

"We are so anxious to get over there and help you," Ramona Martin, associate director of Transfer

— see CENTER page 11 —

Communication goes a long way when it comes to transferring

By Madison Payne
Managing Editor

Although most Associate of Science degrees (A.S.) are transferable degrees, there is still a bit of a misunderstanding when it comes to what each university refers to as a science degree and what constitutes an arts degree.

An A.S. degree is a degree offered to students who plan to transfer to a four-year university and obtain a Bachelors of Science degree. Typically, the difference comes in whether students are required to take a foreign language or not.

Tyler Junior College is making an effort to communicate with universities to see what exactly they call their degrees so that TJC can look at their own degree plans and make sure they are consistent.

"We will be changing the titles of some degrees we offer so that they will transfer better in a senior university," Dr. Homer "Butch" Hayes, TJC provost, said.

According to Hayes, it will communicate better with universities by changing the titles of some degrees to being called A.S. degrees as opposed to Associate of Arts (A.A.)

A.S. degrees were removed from TJC in the 1980s, because there was not as much emphasis on math and science as there is today.

According to Hayes, by making these changes, it will not impact disciplines in particular, it will impact what classes a student will be required to take.

"I think that reintroducing the A.S. degree is a great idea. It stresses the differences and importance of mathematics and the sciences," Steve Green, instructor and department chair of Mathematics, said.

Hayes wants to encourage students to enroll in more math and science courses due to the

— see DEGREES page 11 —

'Roids' are all the rage when it comes to sports

By Aaron Boone
Sports Editor

Drugs are not new to the sporting world. Some fans have even begun to accept the fact that drugs and sports seem to go together, particularly in the sport of baseball, which recently grabbed the spotlight because of steroids.

According to ESPN, Major League Baseball started testing for steroids in 2004 after a random, anonymous test in 2003 turned up many players who tested positive for steroids.

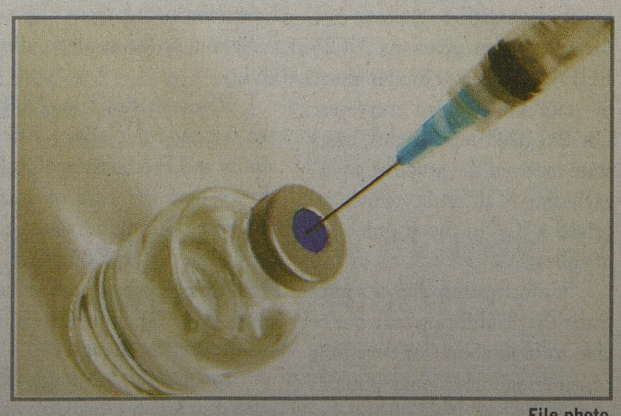
Fast forward five years and look at the mess that steroids has made of the game of baseball. According to baseballssteroidera.com, 120 MLB ballplayers have been linked to steroids or human growth hormone (HGH) since testing began in 2004. The names on the list may include players that were locks to get into the Hall of Fame like Alex Rodriguez, Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens.

While no one knows for sure how rampant steroid usage has become for teens in high school and college, the Mitchell Report, which chronicled MLB's steroid usage, estimated that number is at least in the hundreds of thousands.

TJC Head Baseball Coach Jon Groth said he would fully support steroid testing in junior college sports if it ever became cost effective for schools.

"You wonder how much damage users are doing to their bodies, how they are affecting their long-term health. It's cheating, and it's breaking the law," Groth said.

Groth is not alone in his feelings about illegal performance-enhancing drugs. Mike Marquis, TJC head basketball coach, is also for a uniform steroid testing policy throughout the junior college level.



File photo

"I'm more worried about the health aspect of players who are using steroids, the way those drugs affect teens is just not safe," Marquis said.

There are many reasons

— see ROIDS page 5 —

[opinion]

The Apache Pow Wow

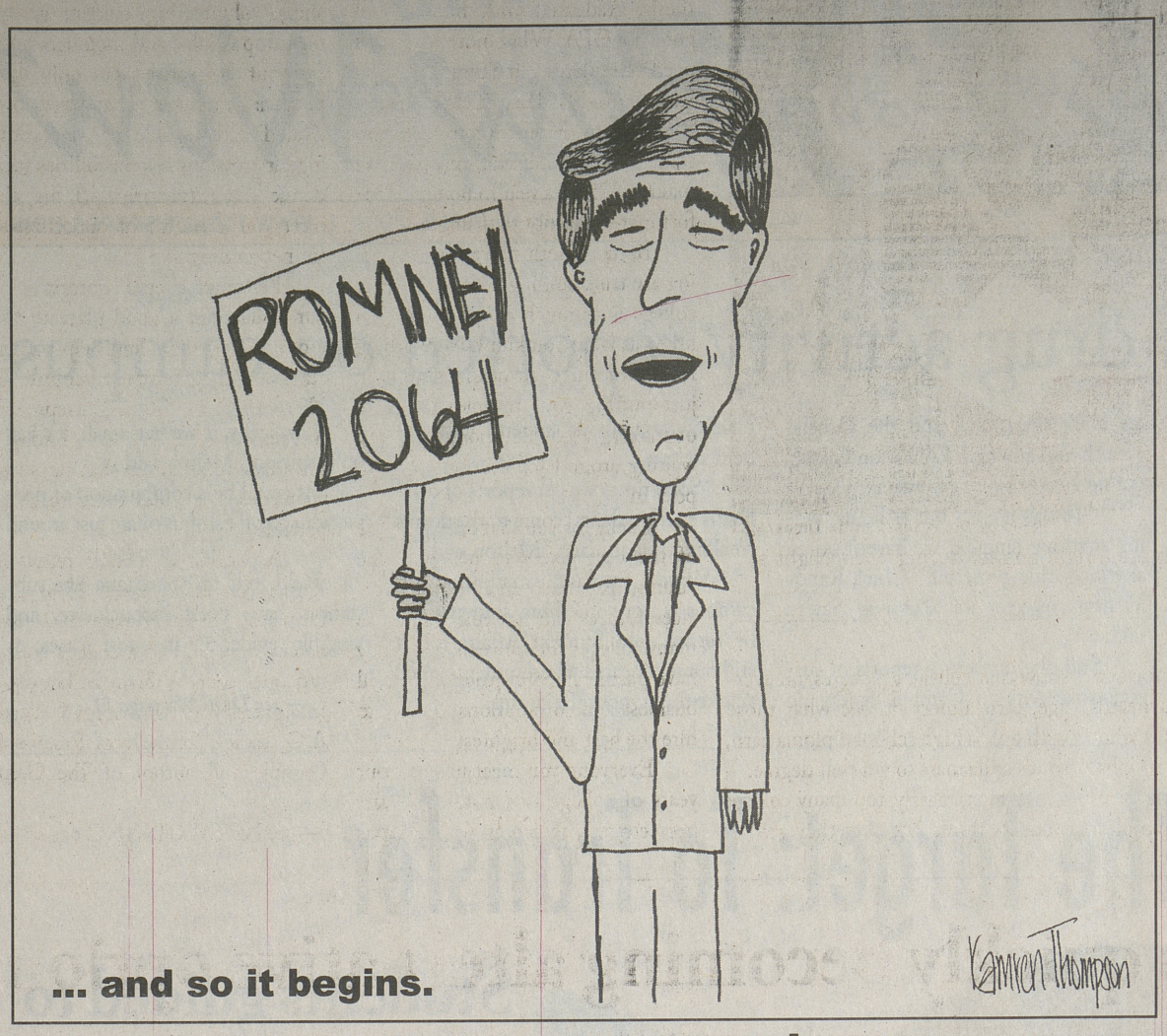
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Are we too wired?

Society nearly defines addiction with use of technology



KAMREN THOMPSON

As I was running late for class last week, I quickly grabbed only the essentials — cell phone, laptop, flash drive and MP3 player. It was only after stepping out onto the cold concrete in my socks that I realized I hadn't even put my shoes on.

That's right. I thought about these technological devices before even my shoes, let alone my books or assignments that were due that day, because God forbid I go a single day without my cell phone. These actions made me ask, "Are we too addicted to technology?"

It seems that as technology has advanced, our dependence has grown tremendously, and some studies have found that tech-junkies are not that different from drug or alcohol addicts.

Professor Nada Kakabadse of Northampton University conduced research into widespread technological addiction. The study suggested that one third of the people surveyed were addicted to technology.

However, some experts still argue that excessive use doesn't necessarily mean that a person is addicted, and that addiction has specific behavioral actions including craving, compulsive use, neglecting other responsibilities and withdrawal.

But the numbers don't lie. The average time people spend on electronic gadgets has become overwhelming.

A survey conducted by the Interactive Data Corp. found that people spend 70.6 hours a week using all types of media and 32.7 hours per week specifically on the Internet. That is almost 71 days spent per person online every year.

The Internet isn't the only outlet for tech-junkies. The research firm, Jupiter Research, estimated that 195 million people in the United States have a cell phone. That's nearly two thirds of the population.

The Pew Research Center's Pew Internet & American Life Project, along with the Associated Press and AOL, conducted a poll of 1,503 people between March 8 and March 28, 2006. The poll found that 67 percent of people 18 to 29 say they always have their cell phone on.

This number is expected to rise as 40 percent of the landline users between the ages of 18 and 29 say they are likely to give up their landlines and go cell-only.

One of the last tech-junkie outlets are video games. Nielson Games reported in May of 2008 that people ages 10 to 26 years old spend nearly 66 hours per month playing Xbox, nearly 51 hours per month playing Playstation 3 and nearly 34 hours per month playing Nintendo Wii.

I personally have not burst into flames from my technology dependency, but Stanford University reported that excessive Internet use decreases social activities.

Instead of literally having conversations with family and friends, our conversations have gone to e-mail, instant messaging and text messages. We are able to stay connected constantly, but the value of the human contact we get from this digital connection is much less significant.

We are losing our ability to interact with people in social environments, because our "social environments" have turned into internet chat rooms, social networking sites and text message inboxes.

Obliviously, no addictive behavior is healthy. There is a point when people stop owning these high-tech devices, and the devices begin to own them, a point where heavy use develops into addiction and technology takes over another life.

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Anonymously post a comment on tjcnewspaper.com

editorial

Cost of higher education predicted to increase and outpace income

ECONOMY

Since 2000, we have watched the economy spiral out of control. Housing markets, health care services and financial institutions have had their fair share of problems.

None of these problems has seen more dramatic changes over the last few years than the cost of education in this country.

Since the turn of the millennium, the cost of college tuition and fees has risen almost 200 percent, according to surveys done by the Nation Center for Public Policy and Higher Education (NCPPHE.)

"Measuring Up" is the higher education report card for the nation given by NCPPHE. The report is broken down by state and is given every year. On the 2008 report card, every state received the grade of an "F" excluding California, which received a "C," in the affordability of college.

Unfortunately, this is something that California may not be able to brag about for very long considering they could possibly end up writing IOU's instead of issuing tax refunds to cover debt repayment and school spending.

The worst may still be yet to come with some economist predicting the cost of attending a four-year state college will reach $120,000 for all four years by the year 2015, and who knows beyond that.

States are spending more money than ever before to ensure that their high school graduates are prepared to attend college, but many of these graduates could be unable to afford to attend college.

It's also quickly becoming evident that the idea of private, non-profit universities should completely be abandoned, or at least eliminated from the conversation as far as their affordability.

Research done in 2008 by the Center for College Affordability and Productivity (CCAP) shows that the cost of tuition at these universities has gone up $4,000 since 2000 while the amount of financial aid distributed at these universities has seen very little change.

In today's economy, high school graduates are left with a choice of choosing to make a living or building the foundations for a career, during a time when the returns for having a college education are decreasing.

This doesn't mean we need to put less of an emphasis on education, but it is time we came up with new and innovative ways of affording a college education.

Some states are trying to stem the tide of the rising cost of college tuition. Ohio's Governor Ted Strickland, announced in January that he was freezing tuition rates at four universities around the state in 2010. He also said that he was capping the tuition increase rate at 3.2 percent in 2011. Strickland also mentioned freezing tuition costs at regional, two-year schools in the state for two years.

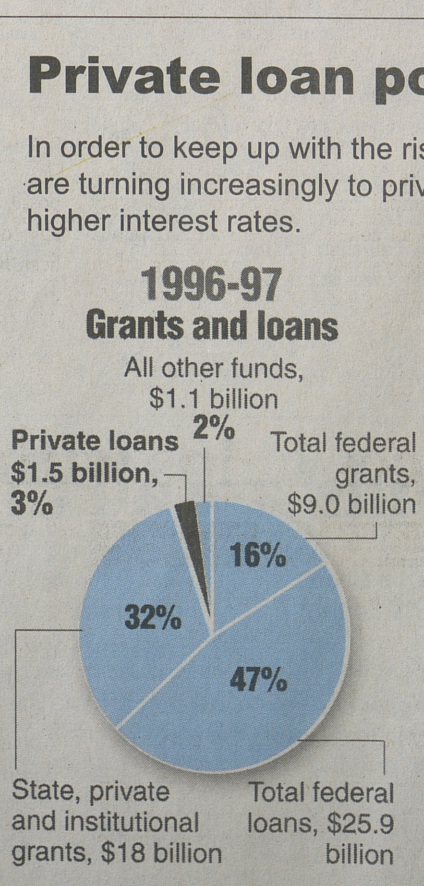
Other states and organizations are using tuition promise funds, which allows students to get tomorrow's education at today's prices.

Another positive aspect of these types of funding programs is that, many of them can be set up for anyone by anyone that is willing to make payments to these fund accounts.

The cost of attending college is no little problem and doesn't have any quick solutions, but it may be time to change the way that we think about funding education in this country.

Private loan popularity

In order to keep up with the rising college costs, students are turning increasingly to private loans, which usually carry higher interest rates.



NOTE: Figures are adjusted for inflation

© 2008 MCT

Source: The College Board, "Trends in College Pricing," "Trends in Student Aid"
Graphic: Betsy Bock, The Dallas Morning News

Networking more common among college students

By Zach Kaufmann
Young Money Magazine

A list of famous college dropouts would be a long list. Some of the best and brightest in the business, technology, and entertainment worlds have succeeded through hard work and all the right connections.

Bill Gates, for example, dropped out of Harvard, and his Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen dropped out of Washington State. For that matter, Steve Jobs was only at Reed College for six months. Ralph Lauren decided he'd rather design ties for Beau Brummel than finish his education at the City College of New York and Don Imus has said he left college after only a week. President George W. Bush did graduate from Harvard (with a C-average), but his former adviser, Carl Rove, left the University of Utah after two years. For those who are truly innovative or driven, or those whose father's are well-connected in politics and business, a college degree is may not be necessary to achieve fame or fortune.



Photo by Jim Bates/Seattle Times/MCT

SOCIALIZING Friends celebrate a right answer during Trivia Night at Finn MacCool's Irish Publick House.

So is socializing more important than studying? Everyone has heard that it's "not what you know, but who know" or that 7 out of every 10 jobs are landed through networking. But don't get too excited. Recent studies show that college graduates, on average, earn almost double what those with only a high school diploma earn, so it's still smart to get that degree.

Unfortunately, too many college students think that once they graduate they're set. You wrote that senior thesis, graduated with honors, and got a 3.8 GPA. What more could you need? Besides, all it takes is a good resume, right? Post it on CareerBuilder.com, Monster.com, apply to some jobs on Craigslist, and you'll be making $75K+ a year in no time. Unfortunately, it's not that simple.

Because both halves of the saying are true: landing a good job after college is as much about whom you know as what you know. Networking is the key, and that means more than just putting your resume out there or making a couple phone calls and waiting around for the job offers to pour in.

Lucky for you that college is one of the best places to network. The Alumni Relations and Student Services Offices can get you started, as many colleges and universities already have partnerships in place with local business and corporations looking to hire the best and brightest.

Everyone you meet in your four years of college is a potential business contact, which is why campus involvement is so important. Internships, volunteering, student groups, on-campus jobs, and membership in fraternities/sororities not only show potential employers that you're motivated and capable of successfully juggling various responsibilities (academic and extracurricular), but also offer you a wealth of opportunities for networking.

Fraternities and sororities in particular offer a good place to toss around some ideas and help you get started with a business venture. As Nichole Tores from Entrepreneur Magazine writes, it's like "having a pre-made focus group that can judge your ideas... a good entrepreneurial petri dish."

According to a 2003 report by Forbes Magazine, about 25% of all CEOs of Forbes Fortune 500 companies were part of a college fraternity, including William B. Harrison, Jr., formerly of JP Morgan Chase, A.G. Lafley, formerly of Proctor & Gamble and author of The Game

— *see* NETWORKING *page 4* —

Electronic textbooks quickly becoming alternative option

By Nikki Bell
Advertising Director

Many students are tired of paying too much money for textbooks and getting little buy-back value at the end of the semester.

Electronic textbooks are a less expensive option to do homework and check assignments online.

"It's a whole new world," TJC provost Butch Hayes said. "It's the same thing you would buy in a hardcopy, except it's an electronic version. Everything that's in a hardcopy will be there and even more."

Students must own a computer to download their electronic textbooks. While students don't need the text for a long period of time, they do need it while they're in class.

"The main thing we have to consider is how many of our students have their own P.C. You are basically buying a license to use an electronic text for a semester or two," Hayes said. "You don't get to keep it forever."

The textbooks also allow students who prefer hard copies to print pages.

"During the amount of time students are licensed to use the electronic textbook they can print materials, but can only print a limited amount," Hayes said. "The textbook company has a way of monitoring how much you print. The University of Texas at Austin uses electronic textbooks in engineering, accounting and some of their sciences."

The electronic textbooks have a few other positive aspects for studying.

"A good thing about the E-textbooks is that you can enhance the size of the font if you have poor eyesight, so that way it is easier to see. Another advantage is that you can highlight the text and write notes along as you read it," Hayes said.

TJC's math department thinks that E-textbooks are a great tool that helps students as well as teachers.

"Students purchase a code that gives them access to an online textbook and online homework problems, " Math Department Chair Steve Green said.

"The access code is used in college algebra, pre-calculus, and we recently started using this in contemporary mathematics one and two," Green said.

Students must purchase the code and go to the listed Web site to register.

"Once the account is set up, students are able to open a site that shows a listing of their textbook. Two other things are shown; one is a problem set where they can do their homework. The second thing is the review section where you can print certain material," Green said.

The idea for electronic textbooks is being considered because TJC wanted to adopt an online homework system.

"The advantage is that we can give lots of homework problems with immediate feedback, and it gives the students a chance to re-work problems. With paper, students they only get one chance to work the problem and have to wait several days to know if their answers are right or wrong," Green said.

Students can decide to purchase a textbook with the access code or not.

"Most students decided not to buy the book," Green said.

Other courses have yet to decide if they too want to switch to E-textbooks.

"I love the online homework. It gives you the freedom to do your work at home, plus you can search for things that you need. I think all classes should use E-textbooks," freshman Emeka Pollard said.

Va. Tech graduate worried about guns on Texas college campuses

By Emily Ramshaw
The Dallas Morning News

John Woods' heart still jumps when he hears hammering or shouting outside his window, even two years after his girlfriend was shot and killed in the Virginia Tech massacre. The routine emergency sirens at the University of Texas, where he's now a molecular biology graduate student, tie his stomach in knots.

Now, Texas lawmakers are proposing the worst thing he could possibly imagine: allowing people with concealed handgun permits to carry weapons on college campuses.

He and others say that bringing more weapons on campus can only increase the chances of a deadly incident because of the possibility of accidents or sudden meltdowns.

"Crime on campus is, statistically, incredibly low. Virginia Tech got very, very unlucky," said Woods, who graduated from Virginia Tech shortly after the shootings and has become UT's de facto gun control spokesman. "If students have guns on campus, that can only create more danger."

Gun-rights advocates took a much different lesson from the Virginia Tech case and a similar massacre at Northern Illinois University last year, arguing that the measure, expected to be introduced in the Legislature this week, will give students and professors the chance to protect themselves. Right now, Texas universities are gun-free zones, they say, leaving them virtually defenseless until campus police can respond.

"I don't want to wake up and read in the paper that Texas students were mowed down like sitting ducks on campus because they weren't allowed to defend themselves," said Republican Sen. Jeff Wentworth, who is filing the "campus carry" bill this week. "It's a matter of personal safety and self-defense."

Currently, 11 U.S. universities allow concealed weapons on campus, nine of them public. Last year, 17 states considered campus carry legislation, but none enacted them.

In Texas, gun-rights lawmakers have agreed to throw all their Second Amendment capital behind the campus carry bill, which would apply to all colleges in the state. At public universities, students are facing off in heated campus meetings and competing newspaper columns.

At UT-Austin, where Charles Whitman's 1966 shooting rampage from the university tower left 14 dead and dozens others wounded, the student government, graduate student assembly and faculty advisory council have all overwhelmingly passed resolutions against the measure. Several Texas campuses, including UT-Dallas and Texas State in San Marcos, are home to their own chapters of Students for Concealed Carry on Campus.

"It would be limited to a few professors, a few graduate students," said Jeremy Schwab, a UT-Dallas graduate student who joined the concealed carry movement after being held up at gunpoint twice — once at a White Settlement bank, once outside a Dallas coffee shop. "It only takes one person to stop, to prevent, to deter a crisis."

And those students or professors with handgun licenses would still be forced to keep their weapons concealed, proponents say, meaning they wouldn't be visible or disruptive in classroom settings.

"At Virginia Tech, in Illinois, it's possible someone might have been able to stop that carnage," said Republican Rep. Joe Driver, who is sponsoring the bill in the House.

But it's exactly this anonymity that frightens opponents of campus carry. They foresee gun-averse students afraid to go to class, or teaching assistants who fear angering students with poor test scores. And they worry suicidal or mentally ill students will use them to take their own lives, or someone else's.

After the Virginia Tech shootings, Woods said, he was paralyzed with thoughts about how the bloodbath could have been stopped, and he shuddered every time he entered a classroom. "I spent a lot of time feeling like a victim," said Wood.

(Distributed by MCT)

Career Services helps with job hunt

By Ashley Summers
Photo Editor

JOB FAIR

Career Services
Who: Allied Health and Nursing students
What: Job Fair
When: March 23, 1-4 p.m.

Even though many students have no idea that it exists here on campus, TJC's Department of Career Services serves as a resource for students who and for those need help finding a job.

Annie Lan, coordinator of Career Services (CS), is hidden in a corner office in Pirtle Technology, Room 128 on the first floor. With a bubbly personality, she has a desire to help students with undecided majors, resume and cover letter resources and references to high-paying jobs and careers in the student's interest.

Lan understands that the department is not well-known by all the students on campus, but she is in the process of updating the Web site to provide more information.

In recent months, employers have been laying off thousands of employees due to the recession. CS offers hope to wary students looking for employment.

"I want to see students go from backpacks to briefcases," Lan said.

Because the interview process has become more competitive, CS offers interviewing resources to help students. Resources also include computer help with resumes and cover letters from books and Lan herself.

Students can narrow choices by taking career assessments such as a personality test, and an "interest inventory," which narrows down careers that may be of interest.

When students at TJC get ready to transfer to a four-year school, they must research universities that offer their major.

Lan recently put together a pamphlet that includes "Myths and Facts About College Majors" and contains information about choosing and changing majors.

On March 23, CS will be holding a job fair from 1-4 p.m. in the Apache Rooms for the Allied Health and Nursing students. More than 30 employers will be attending.

The department is open to students to walk in and find what they need at their own convenience.

The CS department can be found in Pirtle Technology, Room 128, open from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, check the TJC Web site under Career Services.

NEWS IN BRIEF

TJC HOSTS ALLIED HEALTH AND NURSING JOB FAIR

On March 23, Tyler Junior College's Career Services will be hosting the 2009 Allied Health and Nursing Job Fair on the Main Campus of TJC from 1-4 p.m. in the Apache Rooms.

Over 30 employers will take part in the job fair to educate job seekers in the allied health and nursing field about various employment opportunities with their respective health care organizations.

To learn more about this event, contact Career Services at (903) 510-2334.

ALCOHOL SALES MAY BE COMING TO TYLER

Smith County Commissioners Court unanimously agreed Feb. 23 to call a local option election for resident to vote on the legal sale of alcohol in Justice of the Peace Precinct 4. The local option election will place two alcohol-related items on the ballot for the May 9 election.

The potential ballot items are for "the legal sale of mixed beverages in restaurants by food and beverage certificate holders only," and "the legal sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption only."

The items will only be voted on by the residents of the J.P. Precinct 4.

TJC AND UT-TYLER TO HOST DINNER FOR STUDENTS

Tyler Junior College and The University of Texas at Tyler will co-host a Breaking Barriers in Education dinner from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on March 17, at the TASCA Ornelas Center located at 3402 Old Omen Road.

The dinner is free for Hispanic middle and high school students and their parents and those who are interested in learning about college educational opportunities in Tyler. Reservations for the dinner are required and can be made by calling (903) 510-3247 by noon March 16.

NETWORKING

continued from page 3

Changer, and Robert Nardelli of Chrysler. Forbes quoted former Wachovia CEO, G. Kennedy Thompson, who was a member of Beta Theta Pi while an undergrad at the University of North Carolina, as saying that his involvement in a fraternity offered him "the opportunity to meet people from different backgrounds and places, (making) connections that have continued beyond my university years to my business life." Back in 2003, Beta Theta Pi led other fraternities in current Forbes Fortune 500 CEOs, a distinction they still hold in 2008.

Beta Theta Pi, as well as other business fraternities like Delta Sigma Pi, Pi Sigma Epsilon, and Alpha Kappa Psi frequently hold national business conferences where you can meet other fraternity members and prominent alumni. These events can be particularly important to students who attend colleges without a business school or a major that fits their particular business interests.

These fraternities also give out substantial scholarships and grants that could be used to build your fledgling company (or at least pay your tuition and college expenses). Delta Sigma Pi, for example, awards more than $40,000 a year through its Leadership Foundation, with awards ranging from $500 to more than $5,000.

When you do start considering your job options or promoting your business venture, keep in mind the following tips: clearly define your goals and strategies; know your network and keep in touch with those who could prove most helpful to you; ask about additional people who could help you move forward; think about the questions that other people may ask about your personal or professional life and have your answers ready.

Most importantly, remember that your professional networking is different from your social networking. Meeting someone for a business meeting is not the same as talking to someone on Facebook or Myspace.

As Priscilla March for Boston.com writes, "Every professional networking contact, electronic or face-to-face, needs to be carefully crafted, planned, or practiced. One misspelled word, one uncapitalized pronoun, one lapse of over-familiarity or unprofessionalism, and your best chance of making a positive impression may have been wasted."

(Distributed by MCT)

Unemployed vulnerable to job scams

By Steve Giegerich
St. Louis Post- Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — Joe Epstein's heart did a little flip-flop when he opened an e-mail from a staffing firm that promised a portal to a new job.

"When you're in this situation, it really picks you up," said Epstein, 58. Nearly a year after being laid off from his job as an information technology sales rep, he finds himself in a job search for the first time in a quarter-century.

As Epstein learned in the resulting telephone conversation, an ailing economy can bring out the worst in people: Companies that prey on the unemployed in their struggle to find work.

Epstein said a "very nice, very positive" woman representing the staffing firm plucked his resume from a job search engine and promised that her company could brush up his resume, provide interview tips and give him access to exclusive job listings.

The price — $4,000.

Epstein turned it down, as well as subsequent follow-up pitches from the firm.

"Once you give them your credit card, you're up a creek," said the Brentwood, Mo., resident.

Consumer protection advocates say his reasoning is dead-on. In 2007, the Consumer Protection Agency received almost 6,000 complaints about headhunters and employment and placement agencies.

And that was two years before the economy threw an estimated 3.6 million Americans out of work.

"There's always people out there willing to take advantage of people's misery," said Chris Thetford, director of communications for the Better Business Bureau of Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois. "I've never met anyone who had to pay to get a legitimate job."

Nationally, authorities are finding examples of job scammers and taking action. For example, the Federal Trade Commission filed a federal court complaint in November against a Georgia firm that was charging $120 to $140 for materials it claimed would help applicants pass a U.S. Postal Service qualifying exam.

In early 2008, the Ohio attorney general fined a personnel service for enticing clients to pay $389 for a connection to nonexistent jobs.

Jeannette Hoss of East Carondelet, Ill., has been on the receiving end of similar pitches since starting her job hunt in December.

She estimates she has e-mailed her resume in response to Craigslist.com ads nearly a 100 times trying to land a position in health insurance, human resources or other fields.

Of those inquiries, Hoss, 30, estimates fully a third have triggered automatic responses that amount to little more than spam.

One company offered to set Hoss up with her own resume-writing service. Another provided suggestions on how to establish a phony e-mail address.

(Distributed by MCT)



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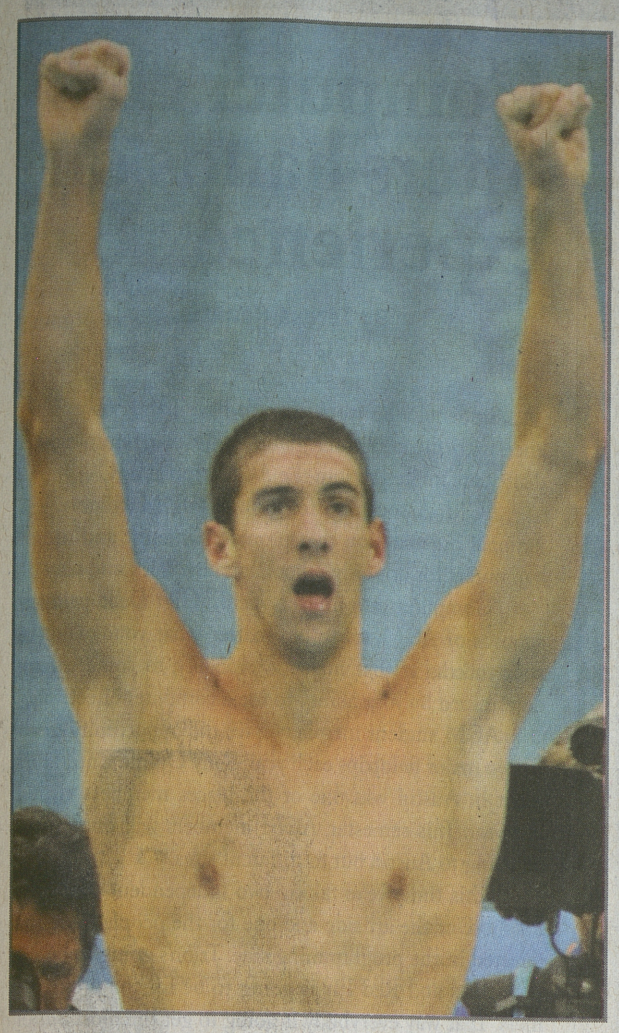


Photo by George Bridges/MCT

MICHAEL PHELPS OF THE UNITED STATES celebrates winning gold in the 4x100 medley, Phelps' eighth gold of the games, on Aug. 17, 2008, in the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing, China.

No jail time for USA's 'golden' child

By Rick Brundrett
McClatchy Newspapers

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said he had no choice but to investigate suspected marijuana use by Olympic swimming champion Michael Phelps.

But in the end, deputies couldn't find enough evidence to charge Phelps, Lott said Monday, though the winner of a record eight gold medals in the Summer Olympics was shown holding a marijuana pipe in a picture taken at a November party in Columbia.

"We had no physical evidence; we had a picture," Lott told reporters. "We didn't have enough where we could go arrest him."

Lott rejected criticism he was grandstanding and wasting taxpayer dollars on a relatively minor drug case, explaining he has "seen people die" from smoking marijuana.

"I don't care what a dope smoker in California says about the Richland County Sheriff's (Department). I worry about people here in Richland County who elected me to be their sheriff to protect them."

Lott said he hopes Phelps, who wasn't interviewed by investigators, is "learning from this, and I hope he takes what he's learned from it and gives it to other kids."

"He's got one of the most highly publicized mistakes I think you could ever make when it comes to drugs," Lott said.

In a statement issued later Monday afternoon, Phelps said he was "glad this matter is put to rest."

"But there are also some important lessons that I've learned. For me, it's all about recognizing that I used bad judgment, and it's a mistake I won't make again. For young people especially — be careful about the decisions you make."

He said he will "move forward and dive back into the pool, having put this whole thing behind me."

Phelps had said earlier publicly he was reconsidering whether he would participate in the 2012 Olympics. He landed in hot water after the photo was published: USA Swimming suspended him from competition for three months, and Kellogg's said it would drop a lucrative endorsement deal.

Olympic officials said while they were disappointed with Phelps' behavior in Columbia, it wouldn't affect his gold-medal status because the November party incident occurred during the competition offseason.

Phelps' Columbia attorney, Bill Nettles, said Monday Lott "conducted a fair investigation."

"The reason he didn't get charged wasn't because he is Michael Phelps," said Nettles, a longtime criminal defense attorney who is a leading candidate to become South Carolina's next U.S. attorney. "The reason he didn't get charged was because there wasn't any evidence of wrongdoing."

The marijuana pipe Phelps was pictured holding was recovered Feb. 4, though there was no evidence in or on the pipe to tie it to Phelps, Lott said. He said he could not charge Phelps with possessing drug paraphernalia, explaining there is no such criminal law in South Carolina or Richland County.

Lott said investigators interviewed some witnesses who were at the party the first week in November, though he declined to discuss details. In an article published in The State on Feb. 8, a person who attended the party said a marijuana pipe was being passed among 15 to 20 people, though he didn't see Phelps use it.

Lott said Monday no one else who attended the party would face charges stemming from the incident.

Lott acknowledged that even if he were able to charge Phelps, he couldn't extradite him on simple marijuana possession under state law because the charge carries less than a year behind bars. Under state law, simple possession of marijuana carries a 30-day jail sentence or fines and assessments totaling $570.

(Distributed by MCT)

campusSCENE

TJC Intramural Basketball



Courtesy Photo

SHOOTING HOOPS Team players include Justin Bilbe, Clarence Gilyard, Peter Richard, Folarin Gbayisomore, Shonie Miles, Blake Turner, Aaron Muhammed, Andreas Foster, Chris Ogbuchi Jr. and Oroza Smullen.

Basketball tryouts approaching

By Erica Smith
Staff Writer

Basketball's regular season is coming to a close, which means it's time for basketball tryouts.

The tryouts are open to all 2009 graduating high school seniors and are being held on March 29.

Players are required to bring their own workout clothes and shoes to the tryouts.

They also must complete the Apache Athletics Tryout Release and Liability Waiver Form. The required forms can be found online at www.apacheathletics.com/f/Mens_Basketball_Tryouts.

"They [the tryouts] were actually easier than I expected. The coaches mainly watch you play five on five to see how you play in game-type situations," Seth Ward, former TJC red shirt player, said.

They will play six separate six-minute sessions where they will be evaluated by numerous coaches.

"We have invited several college coaches to evaluate. Each is looking to bolster their own programs," Head Coach Mike Marquis said.

The best thing for players to do during these tryouts is relax. Coaches usually can tell when a player is nervous and when it's affecting his game.

"I didn't want to mess up, but once I started playing the nerves went away and I just played," Ward said.

These tryouts are important to the high school seniors looking to continue their careers.

"Just play your game. Most guys try to show off too much and turn the ball over or make a mistake, and coaches take note of that, and sometimes, don't forget coaches don't give you a second chance," Ward said.

"Making the team allows a young person to continue his career and to further his career in the future," Marquis said.

Coaches are watching a lot of guys at once, so players should make the most out of every opportunity they are given.

Players have one shot to show the coaching staff what skills they possess.

"Most of all just play and have fun. Relaxing and having fun will most likely make you play better, and the coaches will see that," Ward said.

Tryouts are for graduating 2009 high school seniors only.

ROIDS

continued from page 1

athletes choose to take steroids at the professional level, and while none of them are good, some of the same excuses are being used by high school and college level athletes.

They are told steroids are bad, but see bigger, faster, stronger guys out on the field making plays, then turn on a television and see the latest pro ballplayer who has gotten caught with a positive test.

"We [the baseball coaching staff] try to shine a light on the ill effects and consequences of taking steroids to our players," Groth said.

The reason usage is unknown at the lower levels like college and high school is simple. Athletes know the likelihood of getting caught with steroids is slim because junior colleges and high schools don't have the funds to test their athletes.

The only way they may get caught is if they are careless with their drugs and leave them out for a coach to see.

"The players know we don't test for steroids. I've heard of other coaches telling their guys that they will not be tested, which is taken by the players to mean do whatever it takes to get bigger, stronger and faster. On the coach's part, there is no excuse for acting so irresponsible like that," Groth said.

Even though TJC athletes don't have to worry about testing positive for steroids, they do have to worry about testing positive for drugs, most commonly marijuana. Dr. Drain explained the college's drug testing policy for its athletes like this:

- Athletes face up to no more than six tests a year. If athletes have a positive test, those specific individuals may be subject to further testing.
- A first strike gets that player suspended from play for 28 days (free to practice) and has to attend mandatory counseling.
- A second strike earns that player a ban from competition for the entire year, and they must attend counseling.
- A third strike spells disaster for any athlete, because they are done playing sports for TJC.

All tests are given to the school through a third party who is not affiliated with the school in any way. They are the ones who pick which players will be tested and when those player's tests will be issued.

"Strike two and you're pretty much done for," Drain said. And while Drain has never had to slap a player with a strike two for positive drug tests in his 10-year tenure as AD, he certainly reserves his right to. "Drug usage is serious business and has never been taken lightly at TJC."

Drain went on to explain the cost, which is the main reason TJC athletes aren't subject to a steroid test anytime soon. TJC's current drug test costs $16 a test. Compare that to the test needed for steroids, which is around $100 a test.

"We just can't afford that," Drain said.

Spring soccer kicks off with St. Edwards

By Griffin Blackburn
Asst. Sports Editor

On March 6, the Tyler Junior College Men's Soccer Team will face St. Edwards on the Pat Hartley Field. This will be the first of four games for the spring.

"We haven't played in a long time, but we've been training hard and have a good attitude going into this game," Goal Keeper Ben Paneccasio said.

The team ended the fall season with a loss to San Jacinto-South, 0-5 which left their season at 13-3-1.

Ending the season with a loss provides motivation during training.

"They [St.Edwards] are always a good match, being the first game, we want to prove a point," Paneccaio said.

Paneccaio claims that the Apaches have a friendly rivalry with the Hilltoppers. Since this match is not a conference match, the two schools use it as an opportunity to fine-tune their skills against an opponent.

"This match will help us all get better individually as soccer players," Center Defender Roger DaCosta said.

Dacosta, a sophomore, is undecided where his soccer career will take him after TJC, but has been visiting many interested colleges. Dacosta does plan on going into this game with his "shirt and pants on."

"The first two times we played them, they didn't have as strong of a team as they do now," Dacosta said.

Dacosta has the most experience against St.Edwards; this will be his fourth time to meet them.



Photo by Griffin Blackburn

PART OF THE TEAM The TJC Men's Soccer Team is currently preparing for their first game of the year.

Even though St.Edwards has a stronger team than in previous meetings, Dacosta and Paneccaio understand what it will take to defeat their opponent.

"Good games help you to up your level. You turn your jogs into sprints and work harder against better players," Dacosta said.

With the majority of the Men's Soccer Team healthy, there are some that will miss the St.Edwards game due to training injuries. Sam Gordon of New Castle, England, and Sam McIntosh also from New Castle are both out with injuries. Gordon, a goal keeper, has his left hand in a solid camouflage cast due to an injury sustained from practice. McIntosh, the left defender, has an injured knee sustained from weight training.

"I'm looking forward to a month from now when I can get back to practice," Gordon said.

Gordon is back in the weight room, but not back to practicing with the team.

"I'll be on the sidelines showing my team support and willing them to victory," Gordon said.

Gordon will be signing with the University of Miami after this semester. Along with him on the sidelines will be McIntosh.

"After spring break I will be back to 100 percent, but until then I'll be on the bench supporting my teammates," McIntosh said.

This game will not determine the season for the Men's Soccer Team, with key players like McIntosh and Gordon out for the year's first match, it will only show the strength of the Apaches does not only lie in a few good players.

From Apache Belle to Dallas bar owner

By Satin Scott
Student Life Editor

> **"We were one of the very first businesses in that area, but our landlord assured us it was an up-and-coming location soon to be as popular as the West End."**
>
> **— Lois Adair**
> *Former Apache Belle*

A former Apache Belle traded college for investing in a beer joint that later became a Dallas hot spot.

Lois Adair attended Tyler Junior College in 1955 and was an Apache Belle for one semester.



Lois Adair

"At that time, Ms. Mildred Stringer was the sponsor and Mr. Al Gilliam was the choreographer," Adair said.

Being a Belle seems to run in the family. Her two older sisters, Jackie and Laverne McKinzie, were Belles in 1953 and 1954.

Adair said she has two cousins, Kay McKinzie and Mikki Hogue, who were members a couple of years later. The most recent Belle from the family tree is Cassie Patterson, who is the granddaughter of a cousin.

"A big part of my decision to be a Belle was because of the family history," Patterson said.

After attending TJC, Adair said she felt like school was not for her, though her parents disapproved. She moved to Dallas, worked for Southwestern Bell, met her husband, R.L. Adair, got married in 1960 and had a son, Shane.

Adair said that her in-laws opened a hole-in-the-wall beer joint in Cedar Springs called "Adair's." They retired in 1977 and Adair and her husband bought them out.

In 1983, the Adairs moved from Cedar Springs to Deep Ellum and changed the name to Adair's Saloon.

"We were one of the very first businesses in that area, but our landlord assured us it was an up-and-coming location soon to be as popular as the West End," Adair said.

After her husband's death, she started featuring live music at Adair's Saloon. Her first musician to perform at the bar was Tony Lane, who is now a songwriter in Nashville, Tenn. She said Jack Ingram started his music career at Adair's Saloon.

"Jack Ingram started his music career there playing for free, his only compensation being all the hamburgers and beer he could hold. He recorded an album 'Live at Adair's,'" Adair said.

Adair's Saloon had other well-known artists pass through such as Don Henley and Pat Green.

"Don Henley filmed part of his 'End of the Innocence' video there and later on Adair's Saloon was the site for part of Pat Green's 'Carry On' video. I even have a cameo appearance in that one," Adair said.

Adair's was also written up in publications like *D Magazine, Texas Monthly, Southern Living*, and *Texas Highways*. Adair's was even included in the *New York Times* under the heading "Best Burgers in Texas."

"So, as you can tell, Adair's was pretty much my life after TJC and the Belles," Adair said.

In July of 2006, Adair retired and sold the saloon. The two new owners are Joe Morales and Marty Monroe. Morales said that he worked seven years under Adair and she approached him about buying the place.

He said that they did not change Adair's Saloon much after taking over except adding some televisions.

Adair said she is now enjoying a carefree lifestyle with her family.



Courtesy Photo

IN UNIFORM Former Apache Belle Lois Adair poses in her Belle uniform in 1955.

Computer club offers hands on experience

By Teresa Ramirez
Staff Writer

Students who would like to have hands on experience with the computer gaming and programming industry, are invited to join the ACM club at TJC.

ACM, Association for Computing Machinery, is a national organization that promotes interest and use of computers for not only school, but also work and play.

"Computers are in every field," Gigi Delk, primary sponsor of ACM, said. "No matter what your major is, your success at that major is probably, to some extent, determined by your ability to use a computer effectively."

ACM student members have the opportunity to go to two major fieldtrips each year. Sony Online Entertainment in Austin was one of the places members visited last year. This semester, ACM members will once again be going to Austin but to different sites.

"This time we're taking two independent trips, one for more of the art side and one for the people more interested in the programming side. Trion's going to be for the artists and Red Fly is going to be for the programmers. That way everybody is going to get the most out of the trip and ask the questions that they can ask," Matt Oates, a TJC Video Game and Simulation Programming major and student president of ACM, said.

Students don't necessarily have to be Computer Science majors to be members of the ACM club.

"We welcome everyone who is interested in dealing with computers," Delk said.

ACM members are involved in several activities on campus. Some of the activities they have been active with are freshmen orientations, recycling of printer cartridges and cell phone components, homecoming decorations, and in Expanding Your Horizons, a national program that shows young women the importance of science, math, technology and engineering in their future career.

ACM's goal in Expanding Your Horizon is to "expose young women to the idea of being video game designers," Delk said.

Students who are interested in ACM have the choice to become local student members or national members.

— see ACM page 7 —

Young Life program impacts youth

By Lea Rittenhouse
Staff Writer

Garrick Bailey, the area director of Young Life, received an unexpected Facebook message from a teenager he had become friends with back in 2001.

"I just wanted you to know that you have no idea what you meant to me in high school," the message said.

Bailey was the teenager's Young Life leader.

The note came as a shock because the teenager was one of those kids Bailey wondered if anything he said ever got in.

Bailey was in his senior year of college when the two became friends.

"He was just a wild kid," Bailey said.

After the teenager graduated high school, he joined the military and began experimenting with religions and several other aspects of his life, Bailey said, adding that he tried his best to keep in touch.

"I kept up with him as much as I could through his friends," Bailey said. "I kept hearing of all of these struggles he was having."

Young Life facilitated the connection between Bailey and his teenage friend.

Young Life is a non-profit religious organization that strives to build relationships with high school-aged kids.

Young Life goes to the local schools and events to "hang out" with the kids.

"We are going to the high schools. We are going to the ball games. We are in the lunchrooms. We are going anywhere that high school kids are, that is appropriate for us to be," Bailey said.

The heart behind Young Life is to reach kids at their level, pursue a friendship with them, and eventually, if the time is appropriate with the individual kid, share the gospel of Christ.

"I believe it's exactly how Jesus would be doing it," Bailey said.

Every Monday night, Young Life has an event called "Club," which is the visible expression of Young Life, Bailey said. Club is held at a fitness center in Tyler called Accelerate.

The kids participating in Club get to take part in singing, watching funny skits, playing games and have a short message at the end.

The other planned Young Life event that takes place during the week is an event called "Campaigners." The kids are broken up into smaller groups according to their grade and gender, and they meet with their Young Life leader. The night usually consists of games, study help and just relating to kids.

"We keep doing this until they are at a place where we call them friends. They just happen to be our friends that are in high school," Bailey said.

James Garrett is a sophomore college student attending both TJC and UT-Tyler.

Garrett volunteers for Young Life as well as balancing college and his personal life.

"It's definitely God's calling. I didn't think I was going to be able to handle this much with college and then trying to have some spiritual influence on some guys," Garret said.

He believes Young Life is a great opportunity to set a positive example for high school students.

The program works with the help of volunteer Young Life leaders. There are 12 volunteers in the Tyler area. They range from college volunteers, to mothers with children and working adults. Young Life is not affiliated with any one church. Instead, the program is designed to function as another group for kids to join along with attending their church youth group.

Young Life leaders often play a big role in these kid's lives. Sally Lewis, a freshman at Robert E. Lee, attends Young Life events on a regular basis.

"I like my Young Life leader because she is very nice. She has helped me a lot through this year," Lewis said.

Hannah Hightower also attends Young Life regularly and said it is a fun, social way to get closer to God. Hightower is also a freshman at Robert E. Lee.

Young Life is always looking for more leaders. To learn more about volunteering for Young Life, contact the local office. The only requirement is "that the person is actively seeking Christ in their life," Bailey said.



Photo by Lea Rittenhouse

CHANGING LIVES Mckensie Hawkins, Hannah Hightower, Sally Lewis and Lauren Lane have been brought together by Young Life.



Photo by Courtney Hodgkins

HELPING STUDENTS Caitlin Smith, pharmacy student, receives assistance in the writing lab from Kristen Jackson, coordinator of Writing Lab.

Campus service provides writing assistance, tutoring

By Courtney Hodgkins
Staff Writer

With an essay or two written, students are finding difficulty in their writing and are looking for help.

The Tyler Junior College writing lab is a free service on campus whose goal is to assist students in receiving a quality education by providing a supervised tutoring environment. Dr. Noamie Byrum and Candace Shafer started this free service in 1996. This on-campus service is open to any TJC student needing help improving their writing.

"There is no requirement for a student to get help," Kristen Jackson, coordinator for the Writing Lab said.

Students are advised to make an appointment with a tutor to guarantee at least 30 minutes of one-on-one help, and to show up prepared with their assignment. Students are only allowed to make one appointment per day with a tutor. Anyone needing help should allow themselves time to work on their paper before turning it in.

The lab has two senior professional tutors and five student tutors. The tutors are well trained to help anyone in need of improving writing skills. Tutors assist students at all stages of the writing process from brainstorming and paragraph development, to grammar and documenting sources.

"Writing can be a very isolated process. Therefore, the writing lab is open to help students," Jackson said.

Not only does the lab offer tutoring for writing assignments, they also have an open computer lab which can be used to check e-mail, write papers or do any school work. The lab prefers students not to print more than ten pages, but exceptions can be made.

Jamal Russell, a TJC student, said he uses the lab to complete his homework.

Jackson said the lab sees about 300 students per week using the computers and about 30 to 50 students per week with a tutor.

"The writing lab has helped me become a better writer," Brittney Henry, a nursing student at TJC, said.

The staff in the writing lab wants students to become more professional writers and to not be timid about asking for help.

Jackson said the lab staff respects students as writers, which makes students feel more comfortable and confident in asking for assistance with a writing assignment.

The writing lab is located in Jenkins Hall, Room 1108 and is opened Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Fall dorm applications due soon

By Tommie Matteucci
Staff Writer

> "I'm an Apache Belle, so I have to live on campus, but I don't live here [in Tyler], so it's more convenient."
>
> — Macy Krim
> *TJC Freshman*

While students are looking forward to spring break, Angela Nunez and Melody Huff of the TJC Housing Department are looking forward for the week after the break.

This particular week is where students fill out Intent to Return Applications, if they wish to continue living on campus for the 2009 Fall semester.

For students living on campus, this application is very important if they wish to continue residing in one of the eight halls located at TJC.

And the Housing Department is doing all it can to stress the importance of this application.

While housing applications for new students are accepted year round, Intent to Return applications are a two week process.

"The first week of Intent to Return is any student that is returning who is to stay in their same hall and room," said Huff, Area Coordinator of Residential Life. "The second week is anybody who's planning on staying on campus, but wants to change halls or rooms."

"I'm an Apache Belle, so I have to live on-campus," said Macy Krim, freshman at TJC, "but I don't live here [in Tyler], so it's more convenient."

Crim is one of the several students that chose to stay at TJC's newest residence hall, the Ornelas Complex, which Housing Department expects to get filled first. "Our rooms are almost double the size than the other halls' rooms," Crim said.

There are currently 963 students living on campus.

With only 1,042 rooms in the eight student residence halls, that is still a lot of space taken up.

If students want to continue living on campus, they need to act now in order to keep their spot.

Students who plan on returning need to fill out their applications from March 16 to the 27. Housing payment will be due on July 1.

There will be two financial aid workshops to aid students this semester.

The dates have yet to be determined. According to Nunez, Director of Residential Life and Housing, students who have not paid on the due date shall be placed on a waiting list, while rooms are assigned to students who have paid in full.

There will also be a survey available for students to give feedback about their time on campus. Housing will take this feedback and try to improve the experience for their residents.

For more information, visit www.tjc.edu/housing.

ACM

continued from page 6

Local student members have the opportunity to go to field trips, attend meetings, participate in ACM activities, and learn more about computer-science all for free.

"We don't make you pay just to become a student member," Oates said. "We have a lot of people that kind of show up."

Being a national member offers all these advantages, plus the ability to access 2,200 online courses, 500 online books, and receiving ACM magazines. However, students who wish to become national members will have to pay a fee of $19 per year.

"There's thousands of dollars worth of stuff online that they [national members] get for free if they join," David Alger, assistant sponsor of ACM, said.

ACM members meet twice a month for a chapter meeting. Students who are interested in ACM or who wish to attend one of ACM's meetings to know more about the organization, may contact Gigi Delk by email at gdel@tjc.edu.

They may also contact ACM Assistant Sponsors, David Alger at dalg@tjc.edu or Casey Callender at ccal@tjc.edu for more information.

ONLINE

ACM Club photos can be found on the Web.

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[arts&entertainment]

'The Venue:' forum for students to showcase their talents

By Sarah Hll
Staff Write

Dimmed lights and an iuminated stage set the mood for a night of tant and entertainment at The Venue. The sme of coffee and cookies filled the air, as the audnce gathered with anticipation for the night t begin in the Jean Browne Theater.

The Venue is an open forum f students to come and showcase their talents, nether their talent is singing, poetry, or even ncing, it is welcome at this one-of-a-kind activy.

"The Venue is offered to give tse something to do, somewhere to go, and ree food. There are people to hang with, a placeo gather, and friendly faces to welcome," Dr. Dav Crawford, professor of Speech and Theater, id.

The Venue is a place for any perfmer to try out their new material in front of a fgiving and supportive audience.

"For me, personally, it's been a pla that I can actually show off the musical talen that God has blessed me with... but it's a greatlace to hang out with people and a great w to make new friends, and it's made my desi to perform much stronger each time I play," rformer Caden Crawford said.

Not only does The Venue reach out to sdents, but it is also for anyone who wants to jo in the fun. Performing is not required and an one can go to hang out with friends and me new people.

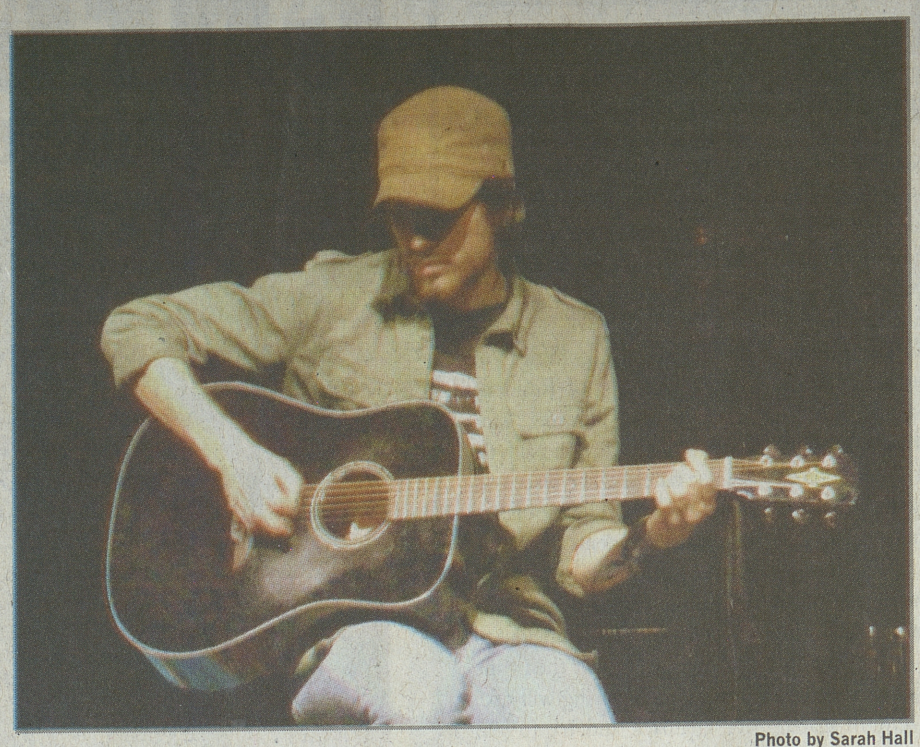


Photo by Sarah Hall

ROCKING OUT Brady Antilley performs for the crowd at 'The Venue,' which is a place for any peformer to try out their new material in front of a supportive audience.

"The Venue is a great opportunity to meet new people and get to better understand and appreciate others and their passions and talents. It's a lot of fun and very entertaining," student and Venue participant Stormy Philpot said.

Typically, there are multiple Venues each semester including the summer mini semesters and they last around two hours.

Dr. Crawford would like to lengthen the time of The Venue from two hours to three hours in order to slow things down and not feel so rushed with the time they have.

"I want to slow things down. It's a coffeehouse, not strictly a theatre of entertainment," Dr. Crawford said. "It's kind of like that now, but I'm sure we can bump our crowds up even more."

Crawford believes that The Venue is going in that direction and will eventually get there.

Dr. Crawford is open to new ideas about changes that could be made to The Venue and tries his best to make the audience want more.

"I listen to suggestions, but with every semester comes new students to experience the Venue and there's been a little change," Dr. Crawford said.

Although things are slowly changing at The Venue, there are a few rules that will be kept the same. Performers have five minutes. Keep it clean, no vulgarity, no amps or microphones, and original works are celebrated.

The next Venue is March 21 and is aimed towards celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Dr. Crawford suggests green icing on the cookies, works from Dylan Thomas, songs by The Chieftans, and of course original pieces.

The other Venues will be April 4 and April 25. To sign up to perform email Dr. Crawford at dcra@tjc.edu, Caden Crawford at cademan91@yahoo.com, or sign up on Dr. Crawford's office door, which is located on the top floor of the Jean Brown Theater building and is in WCA-Studio 7.

Tyler Civic Theater presents 'Blithe Spirit'

By Krysten Hanger
Staff Writer

A séance, a medium, and a ghost are usually seen in horror films instead of comedies, but "Blithe Spirit" is a different story.

Tyler Civic Theaters' newest production "Blithe Spirit," written by Noel Coward, is the tale of Charles Condomine, a novelist, and his second wife who decides to have a séance to speak to the other side.

When Charles's first wife appears, much to his disbelief, mayhem and hilarity ensue.

"This is a stereotypical British drawing room comedy," Director Felicity Enas said.

A British drawing room comedy is not shown through slapstick, such as people falling down, but more in the words people use and how they are spoken.

"With good comedy, you play it straight so it becomes comedic," Evelyn James, who plays Charles' second wife, said.

"This is purely entertainment, much like a situation comedy on television," Enas said. "More audiences em to enjoy a comedy where th can come to get away and forg rather than a drama," Enas said.

Kimblee Martin who has been in 1(or more productions was very exted to receive the role of Elvira, thghost of Charles' first wife. She haeen waiting to be in the British medy for almost seven years sincshe saw it in college.

"The way describe my character would ba 1930s party girl who also is a b flirt," Martin said.

A newcom in the Civic Theater is Lauryn nfer who attends UT-Tyler.

Though Cfer has been in several high schl plays, she has tried out several tes before at the Civic Theater andhis time landed a role as the maid,dith.

"I was extreely excited to get the role, it is a ry funny play to be in," said Conf

"This is a unirsal production," James said.

Although it de with relationships, anyone w has been or is in one will unrstand the arguments and the w in "Blithe Spirit."



Photo by Krysten Hanger

LOTS OF LAUGHTER Frances Whiteside and Evelyn James rehearse a scene from the 'Blithe Spirit.' The play opens March 13 at the Tyler Civic Theater and costs $20 for non-students and $15 for students.

While one new face appears in the show, there are several returning faces that have been in many productions with Tyler Civic Theater.

The leads include Tom Young, who portrays Charles, Evelyn James plays his second wife, Ruth, and Kimberlee Martin, who portrays Elvira his first wife.

"Blithe Spirit" opens 7 p.m. on March 13 at Tyler Civic Theater. The play will run through March 23 with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday.

Tickets at the door are $20 for non-students and $15 for students. The show welcomes all ages.

Former student dispays his artwork in exhibit oncampus

By Sean Boulger
Staff Writer

Successful artist and former student, Ryan Ayers spoke to attendees of a reception Feb. 12 that was the first in a series of exhibits planned to showcase the talents of TJC alumni.

This art showing is one of several to happen this spring semester in The Full Circle Series, which was planned by Derrick White, a TJC art instructor and the leader of the Art Club.

Ayers, along with other former student artists of TJC, are coming back to show their artwork during the series.

The Full Circle Series is a calendar of art exhibitions and events featuring former TJC students who currently work professionally in the field of visual art.

A number of previous students such as Amber Draschil and Bryan Pettigrew, along with Ayers, are to show their work in the series.

"It encourages our current students to meet, hear and see examples from artists who have been exactly where they are and who are taking what they have learned and succeeding," White said

White hopes that with these art showings, as well as the art classes and instructors of the art department, the students will be inspired to pursue their career goals.

"I love the department and the teachers. It just makes me wish it was four years," art student Tiffany Mre said.

She agreed th seeing artwork by Ayers and knowing that was a former TJC student helped inspireer to go as far with her artwork as she can.

Ayers received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in painting fr the Savannah College of Art and Design i2008 after transferring from TJC.

Ayers attended C in 2004–2006 and completed numerous tudio art courses in drawing, design, paintg and sculpture. He received recognition as 2004–2005 TJC performance grant student owcase artist.

The TJC Art Depar ent has had numerous students that have ge on to universities, art institutes and work ofessionally in the field of art.

These former stude like Ayers have gone on to success and sy in contact with their former TJC art instruors. They also give back to the art department.

"TJC has one of the bc art departments I have come across. They a very encouraging and allow a lot of creativfreedom," Ayers said. "I plan on donating a w pieces in the art auction. Anything to helthe art department."

Ayers has also sold some his work professionally and has more tha a few fans in East Texas.

Ayers' work will be on dlay through March 4 in Wise Auditorium n TJC campus.





Photos by Sean Boulger

VISUAL ART Above, alumnus Ryan Ayers showcases his exhibit "Memory of Mnemosyne" in the Wise Auditorium on Feb. 12. He is part of the Full Circle Series, which is an exhibit that features former TJC students who currently work in the field of visual art. Left, Ayers signs a piece of his artwork during the exhibit.

Online college classes turn out to be more than a craze

By Paul Brubaker and Kathleen Carroll
The Record

HACKENSACK, N.J. _ The global reach and flexibility of the Internet is fueling brisk growth in online college classes, and those numbers are expected to grow as the recession encourages numerous workers to continue their education.

"The courses can be accessed from any place, at any time," said Ken Vehrkens, dean of Anthony J. Petrocelli College of Continuing Studies of Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, N.J. "That type of flexibility really fits into many adult learners' schedules, balancing full-time employment and family commitments."

Nationwide, the number of students taking at least one online course jumped by nearly 70 percent between 2002 and 2007, from 1.6 million to 3.9 million, according to a study released in November by the Sloan Consortium, a nonprofit advocacy group for online learning.

Better technology and bigger bandwidth have made the trend possible.

When online classes were introduced in the mid-1990s, educators and students were often frustrated by slow log-on times (remember dial-up?) and static messaging programs.

Now, new software and cheaper, faster computers allow students to chat with one another and a professor in real time, share video and audio clips and conduct online research around-the-clock.

If there is a typical student, she is Jessica Marmolejos of Wayne, N.J. Marmolejos, 32, is a busy single mother of two and administrative assistant who starts her school day after work.

Her office skills have helped her land temporary jobs at companies such as NBC Studios and Morgan Stanley. But when those businesses downsized, she was among the first to be dismissed because she lacked a degree, she said.

So in the evenings at home, she boots up her computer and cracks open a Western Civilization textbook while her 9-year-old son, Brandon, plays with a puzzle and her daughter, Victoria, 11, is in her room.

"This is basically the only way that I feel that I can actually do it," she said.

Online classes are popular with colleges because they can expand the potential universe of students, from active members of the military to faraway workers seeking a specialized program.

Take Erica Ulman of South Carolina. She's a student at Passaic County Community College in Paterson, N.J., although she has never set foot on campus.

Ulman, 30, hopes to trade her paralegal career for work in medical records, a growing field.

A contact at a hospital near her home referred her to Passaic County Community College, which offers an online associates degree program in health information technology.

She registered last July and hopes to complete her degree during the spring 2010 semester.

(Distributed by MCT)

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Degrees

continued from page 1

fact that in this day, more and more careers are calling for students to have a stronger background more knowledge in math and science.

"Due to the State's constraints on the number of hours that can be required of students, it would be more difficult to require more math and science. However, since math and science courses open up more options for students. Students need to be educated about these benefits and encouraged in every possible way," Green said.

The exact time of when these changes will be made is still undetermined, but Hayes and Dr. Fernando Figueroa, dean of University Studies, are taking all the steps needed in order to implement the A.S. degrees as soon as possible.

"We already have authority from the state to change the names of theses degrees. Dr. Figueroa and I are looking at catalogs and degrees with the help of the staff to make these changes," Hayes said.

Center

continued from page 1

and non-traditional students at University of Louisiana at Monroe said.

To encourage students to consider the University of Louisiana at Monroe, they are offering an out- of- state tuition waiver for students who maintain a 2.5 GPA, have full-time status, and no remedial courses for a savings of up to $3,000 per semester.

They will also be working with the students on core equivalent classes to see what will transfer.

Students can begin setting up appointments after spring break. For more information, contact Jana Chancey at (903) 510-3325 or at the Office of Admissions at (903) 510-2200.

Dorms

continued from page 1

needed to pursue charges for possession of drugs.

"Just because we get somebody alleged to have done something, sometimes it's not marijuana. Once we investigate, we may close it out," Melton said.

However, if the suspicion of drugs is substantial enough, students can be suspended or punished without physical evidence.

"It's one of those things that we kind of bring them in and we say 'look you need to stop' and if we find anything like paraphernalia then we can give them something like community service or something," Angela Nunez, the director of Residential Life and Housing, said. "But if it is a sizeable amount, then they will be removed almost immediately."

Melton explained more specifically a "sizeable amount" is considered any "useable amount" in regards to Campus Safety pursuing criminal charges against a student.

"If I find two or three seeds or whatever, that's not enough to make a criminal case," Melton said.

The lure of drugs has repercussions for some students who come to TJC.

"I think what's sad is some of our 'A' plus students come here and try it and just spiral," Nunez said.

Yet even with the obvious need to catch students who are bringing drugs into dorms, there is still a certain protocol for residential assistants (RA's).

"If my staff walks by and smells [smoke,] they can't go in. They know to call Campus Safety," Nunez said.

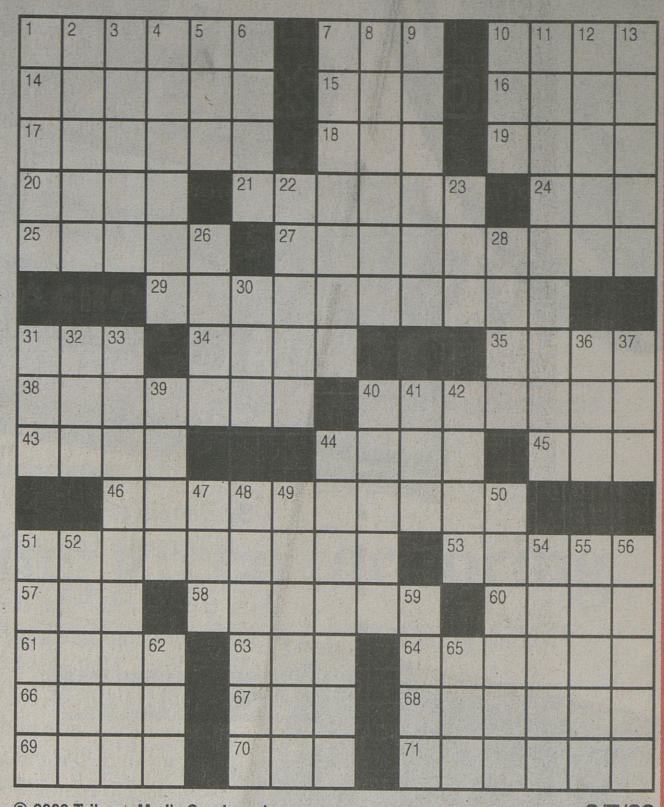
Students who do come back to the dorms under the influence are advised to go back to their dorm rooms.

"Typically, if you know someone's had a few drinks, we let them go to their dorm room and sleep it off. If they cause problems, we will be involved, but if they go in the dorms and don't cause problems, then we leave them alone," Melton said.

TJC has an objective to provide a safe environment for the 963 students living in the dorms and tries to educate students where possible about the dangers of drug usage. However, students will be held responsible for their own actions.

"I guess our main purpose is not to catch students doing something wrong; it's to provide for the safety of our students," Melton said.

Crossword



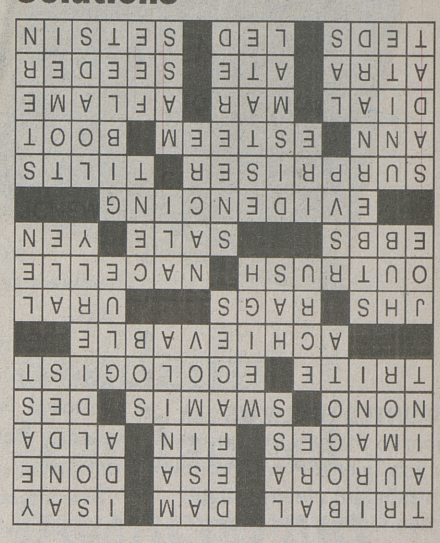
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3/7/09

ACROSS
1 Of sociopolitical units
7 Beaver project
10 How 'bout that!
14 __ borealis
15 NASA's ISS partner
16 Carried out
17 Reflections
18 $5 bill
19 "Paper Lion" star
20 Childhood prohibition
21 Hindu mystics
24 __ Plaines, IL
25 Hackneyed
27 Conservationist
29 A realistic goal
31 Learning inst.
34 Cleaning cloths
35 Caspian feeder
38 Speed up faster
40 Aircraft engine enclosure
43 Wanes
44 Mall event
45 Hankering
46 Standing as proof of
51 Boo shouter
53 Pinball miscues
57 Cape __, MA
58 Value highly
60 British trunk
61 Watch face
63 Besmirch
64 Burning
66 Razor choice
67 Had a bite
68 Planting device
69 Kennedy and Koppel
70 Pioneered
71 Becomes entrenched

DOWN
1 Contaminate
2 Hearsay
3 Teheran native
4 Capital of Colombia
5 Exist
6 Highland maiden
7 Mars with graffiti
8 "I, Robot" author
9 Philippines metropolis
10 Actress/director Lupino
11 Befitting a warrior
12 Peruvian mountains
13 Leavening agent
22 Use a scale
23 Express sorrow
26 Light tan
28 Sticking stuff
30 Possesses
31 Guitarist Walsh
32 Kind of cap
33 Swiss rescue worker?
36 Tavern brew
37 Dykstra or Deighton
39 Invitation abbr.
40 Mother-of-pearl
41 Boxing great
42 Lincoln coin
44 Smiled derisively
47 Wrath
48 Depressing in character
49 Landed manor
50 Edible viscera of fowl
51 Egypt's Anwar
52 Make one
54 Burdens
55 Actress Marisa
56 Severe
59 Big glob
62 __ Vegas
65 Charge for service

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March

6
FINAL EXAMS, SPRING MINI-TERM I

REGISTRATION, SPRING MINI-TERM II

SPRING MINI-TERM I ENDS

9-13
SPRING BREAK (OFFICES CLOSED)

16
FINANCIAL AID CHECK RELEASE

GRADES DUE 10 a.m., SPRING MINI-TERM I

SPRING MINI-TERM II BEGINS

17
4 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. STUDENT SENATE MEETING

18
4 p.m. - 6 p.m. PING-PONG TOURNAMENT

19
2 p.m. - 4 p.m. 9-BALL TOURNAMENT

23
FINANCIAL AID CHECK RELEASE-INCLUDING SPRING ONLY 2ND DISBURSEMENT

MAYMESTER ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS

OFFICIAL REPORTING DAY, SPRING MINI-TERM II

SUMMER I ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS

SUMMER II ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS

25
NOON - 1 p.m. SPONSOR/ADVISOR'S MEETING

7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. JAZZ FESTIVAL

26
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. JAZZ FESTIVAL

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By Dennis Gonsoulin
Multimedia Editor

There is more than just the latest movie showings going on at the Tyler Rose Hollywood Movie Theater.

Over the course of the past 12 years since the theater was built, numerous employees have reported unexplained happenings that point to what many believe to be paranormal activity or a hauntings.

"Someone experiences activity at least once a week," George Jones, Hollywood Theater general manager, said.

The reported activity ranges from strange noises, unexplained movements and shadows, to audible voices and full apparitions of figures.

"One time I was working at projection booth 12 by myself one night and I looked over my shoulder and saw a woman, then she disappeared almost immediately," Manager Tegan Lewis said. "Sometimes I'll be here by myself and see a shadow walking down the hallway."

While some of the employees have seen apparitions, others have felt them.

"I was down by booth four one night threading the projector, and I felt a cold hand touching my back, but I turned around and no one was there," employee Rachel Rogers said.

But perhaps one of the most chilling experiences reported was by another employee working inn a projection booth. He was working alone when he heard a voice say "get out and leave me alone," to which he replied "you get out and leave me alone!"

He was not alone in hearing voices late at night. Several other employees have reported that when working alone at projection booth nine, which is said to be one of the most paranormal-active places in the theater, they have heard a voice speaking to them from the door directly behind them, only to turn around and find no one there.

Jones himself has experienced his share of the unexplained.

"I was headed out to the back balcony one night when I passed by the door to the storage closet. The door handle was jiggling back and forth really fast. I figured some stupid employee had locked themselves in, but when I went to unlock the door, there was no one inside. That's why we just keep the door open all the time now," Jones said.

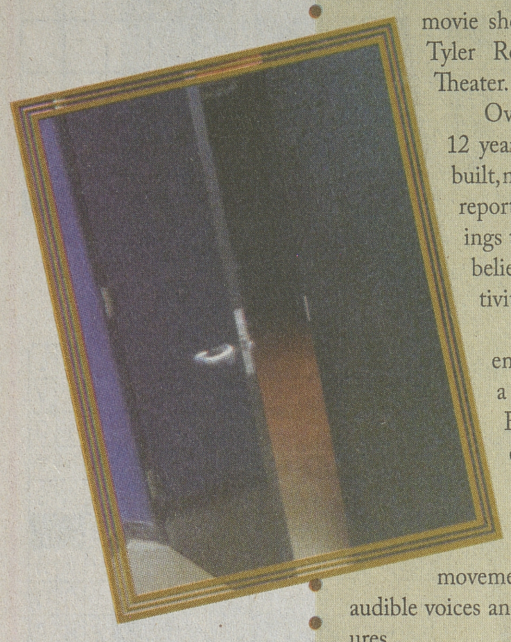
All this reported activity sparked the interest of local paranormal investigation team Tyler RIP, who held an investigation of the theater in April 2007. During the investigation, video equipment and motion detectors were set up at the sites of most of the reported activity. Prior to the beginning of the investigation, one of the team members saw an apparition of a figure wearing a yellow shirt and baggy clothing, the same entity seen by as many as three employees on separate occasions. Also during the investigation, a motion detector was triggered and went off, though no one was in the area at the time. This occurrence goes unexplained by the team.

But possibly the most clear evidence caught by the team was video footage of the door to the same storage area where Jones witnessed the rattling handle, opening and closing all by itself.

While it is a popular belief that hauntings are the location where someone died, it is unclear whether anyone ever died at the theater.

"Over the years we've had two people go into epileptic seizures here and be taken away by ambulances, but I don't know whether or not they died," Jones said.

While many remain skeptical about the idea of hauntings and supernatural occurrences, the countless stories from employees of the theater, along with the evidence of Tyler RIP's investigation, speak for themselves. And as long as the show goes on, the door remains open to paranormal experiences for theater employees and moviegoers alike.





HAUNTED HALLWAYS Left, door to the storage closet which Tyler RIP paranormal investigation team caught video footage of opening and closing on its own. Right, projection booth nine, where numerous employees have reported seeing apparitions and hearing voices speaking to them while working alone.
Photos by Madison Payne

Part two of ongoing *Ghost Tracker* series

